

Kindness Doesn't Cost a Nickel

17 Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and he will give a reward to the lender.

Proverbs 19:17 (CSB)

I'm not for certain where I heard this wise statement, but I like it because it's true, necessary, and good. It is that "kindness doesn't cost a nickel. In Proverbs 19:17, we have words that speaks of God's care for those who care for or show kindness (*gracious mercy*) to the poor or those who are in need. In this verse there is this idea of investing "kindness" into the lives of other, which will prove as recompense and benefit to the one showing this kindness as it is not only to the poor but, in a sense, to God as it is seen as "a loan to the LORD". What the writer states is that this isn't a repayment from the poor, but a reward from the LORD. The question is whether we are willing and working to invest in the lives of those around us who are in need not because of what we can get, but by what we can give in the form of kindness.

The truth is that need is all around us and it's not just the need of others because there are times when we have need to get through a difficult time, a rough patch in the road of life. It is in these times that we pray to and pursue God to show His gracious mercy through us and to us by way of kindness in times of need.

If we turn to the Gospel of Matthew we find this point come up again.

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

Matthew 25:34 (CSB)

Here we have this mention of an inheritance and as Jesus continues in the text speaking towards the issue of need as He was in need and these who are His showed kindness to Him. In v37 there is confusion as the righteous were unaware of when this happened. In v40 Jesus explained,

40 "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40 (CSB)

Need is everywhere and with that may we be aware of it and of our great God who is ready and able to work through us and for us in these moments to show kindness in these times of need. As well, let us not forget the promise of God's reward for those who come to Him in faith and serve Him by serving others in need out of kindness *that doesn't cost a nickel*. In this may we also take into account that the kindness of God towards us cost not a nickel but the life of His Son who became our ransom, our reward, our redemption; salvation in Christ. *"Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow."*

Spend it graciously and mercifully,



Pastor Jeff.